

HB 880 -- Department of Natural Resources

Sponsor: Guernsey

This bill changes the laws regarding the Department of Natural Resources: In its main provisions, the bill:

(1) Transfers all powers, duties, and functions of the Land Survey Program within the Department of Natural Resources to the Department of Agriculture by type 1 transfer. If the program headquarters are located in any building owned by a state agency or department, the program cannot be liable to that agency or department for rent or other costs associated with the office space;

(2) Renames the Department of Natural Resources Revolving Services Fund as the Department of Agriculture Revolving Services Fund;

(3) Increases the number of members on the Land Survey Commission from four to five registered land surveyors, requires three of them to be from a third class county, and removes the requirement that one of the members be a county surveyor;

(4) Requires one member of the Dam and Reservoir Safety Council within the Department of Natural Resources to be from each of the state's five United States Congressional districts with the highest number of dams and the council to prepare and present an annual report to the General Assembly by December 31;

(5) Establishes the Missouri State Parks Commission within the Department of Natural Resources and transfers all powers, functions, and duties of the Missouri State Park Board within the department to the commission. The commission:

(a) Must formulate policies and general programs for all matters relating to the acquisition, development, and operation of the state park system;

(b) Must consist of one member from each of the state's United States Congressional districts, the department director, and the chairman of the State Soil and Water Districts Commission. The bill specifies the requirements and terms of service for the commission and meeting frequency;

(c) May conduct public hearings on matters under consideration by the commission;

(d) Must prepare an annual report for the Governor and members of the General Assembly and make it available to the general public;

(6) Specifies that the Missouri Trails Advisory Board, Missouri Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the State Interagency Council for Outdoor Recreation within the Department of Natural Resources must report to the State Parks Commission within the department;

(7) Transfers the Well Installation Board within the Division of Geology and Land Survey in the Department of Natural Resources to the Safe Drinking Water Commission within the department and requires the board to prepare an annual report each year for the General Assembly;

(8) Requires the Industrial Minerals Advisory Council within the Department of Natural Resources to prepare and present an annual report to the General Assembly by December 31;

(9) Transfers the Solid Waste Advisory Board within the Department of Natural Resources to the Hazardous Waste Management Commission within the department and changes the membership of the board to one member from each of the state's United States Congressional districts. One member of the board must be elected to serve as a voting member of the commission;

(10) Adds the Director of the Division of State Parks within the Department of Natural Resources and the Director of the Water Protection Program within the department as members of the Soil and Water Districts Commission within the department;

(11) Requires the Missouri Weatherization Policy Advisory Council within the Department of Natural Resources to prepare and present an annual report to the General Assembly by December 31;

(12) Requires any recipient of a grant or other funds from the Weatherization Assistance Program for Low-Income Persons within the Department of Natural Resources to attend a financial planning or budgeting course from a local community action group, community college, or school before receiving the grant or funds;

(13) Transfers the Small Business Technical Assistance Program within the Department of Natural Resources to the Air Conservation Commission within the department; and

(14) Repeals the provisions regarding the Interstate Mining Compact and the state's participation in the compact.